

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, GW, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PAUL BARTLETT ON 209 MHZ
REF: STATE 120352

PER REFTEL, REPEATED HEREWITH BONN 01900 OF 01 FEB 78:

"1. ON JANUARY 24 PAUL BARTLETT PAID SEPARATE CALLS ON THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ON THE DCM. THE DEPUTY PAO, THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND THE TRANSPORTATION/ TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING WITH THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR.

2. BARTLETT SAID THAT THE USG HAD THE RIGHT, UNDER THE 1952 US-FRG EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT (AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG REGARDING OPERATIONS OF CERTAIN RADIO INSTALLATIONS FROM WITHIN THE FRG), TO USE THE 209 MHZ LONG WAVE FREQUENCY AS IT WISHED. HE ASSERTED THAT THE FRG SHOULD GIVE THE U.S. EXTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS OVER THE MUNICH-ERCHING FACILITY AND THE 209 MHZ FREQUENCY, SUCH 'AS THE FRENCH HAVE IN THE SAAR-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 120510

LAND WITH EUROPA 1,' AND CLAIMED HE COULD PERSUADE THE FRG TO GRANT THESE RIGHTS IF THE USG DID NOT INTERFERE. BARTLETT STATED THAT IF HE WERE ALLOWED TO BROADCAST IN WEST GERMANY, HE PLANNED TO HAVE HIS BROADCASTING ENTITY WORK UNDER CONTRACT TO THE USG, HAVE FRG BROADCASTING INTEREST IN THE COMPANY (EITHER DEUTSCHE WELLE OR DEUTSCHLANDFUNK), AND BROADCAST ONLY IN GERMAN AND ENGLISH TO WEST EUROPE.

3. BOTH THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR AND THE DCM POINTED OUT TO BARTLETT THAT, EVEN IF THE USG HAD LEGAL BASIS UNDER THE 1952 AGREEMENT TO USE 209 MHZ, HIS PROPOSALS RAN INTO OTHER PROBLEMS, OF WHICH BARTLETT WAS AWARE. THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR EMPHASIZED THE STRONG EUROPEAN (NOT JUST GERMAN) DISPOSITION AGAINST COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING AND THE PRES-SURE THE FRG WOULD FACE FROM ITS OWN BROADCASTERS IF IT ALLOWED A FOREIGNER TO BEGIN COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING. THE DCM STRESSED THAT WE COULD NOT UNILATERALLY TAKE STEPS IN GERMANY WHICH THE FRG OPPOSED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ANYONE AT THE POLICY LEVEL, GERMAN OR AMERICAN, WOULD HAVE TO SEE THIS ISSUE IN THE TOTALITY OF US-FRG RELATIONS, WHICH ARE MULTIFACETED AND COMPLEX.

4. IN A LATER MEETING AT THE DCM'S HOUSE, BARTLETT VOICED A LESS OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF HIS CHANCES OF SUCCESS WITH BOTH HIS BERLIN AND MUNICH/ERCHING PLANS. HE SAID OFFICIALS AT THE BPM TOLD HIM THAT UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, EAST GERMANY HAD THE RIGHT TO 'VETO' ANY NEW TELEVISION CHANNEL PLANNED FOR WEST BERLIN. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION CONCERNING ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN AND THE NEED TO COORDINATE WITH THE FRG AND WITH THE BERLIN SENAT, BART-LETT EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR COOPERATION BUT FELT THE U.S. HAD THE RIGHT TO DO AS IT WISHED WITHIN ITS OWN SECTOR IN BERLIN. BARTLETT SAID HE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 120510

HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES WITH KUPER.

5. BARTLETT EXPRESSED SOME DISMAY AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED A LACK OF USG COORDINATION. HE SAID THIS APPARENT LACK OF COORDINATION COMPELLED HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO 'FIND OUT WHO WAS ON FIRST BASE.' HE ALSO STATED HIS CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OVER, AS HE EXPRESSED IT, THE RUSSIANS DOMINATING THE EUROPEAN LONG WAVE FREQUENCY BANDS, ESPECI-ALLY 209 MHZ, TO THE EXCLUSION OF THE U.S." VANCE

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